

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1290

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud Head Coach Keith Burnett and the Father Ryan Fighting Irish Rugby Club upon capturing the 2010 Tennessee High School Rugby State Championship Cup.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful high school teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Keith Burnett, the Father Ryan Fighting Irish Rugby Club achieved a remarkable level of success during the 2010 season, posting a league record of 11-0, winning the team's third Tennessee High School Rugby State Championship Cup in the last four years, and endowing the Fighting Irish Rugby Club with legendary status; and

WHEREAS, with their Irish Pride on display, the Fighting Irish ruggers launched their defense of last year's state championship, again dominating the Middle Tennessee Rugby Conference during the regular season and rolling through the playoffs on their way to the state title game, exhibiting their impressive teamwork, their outstanding athletic ability, and their trademark toughness along the way; and

WHEREAS, advancing to the State Cup Finals as the Middle Tennessee Conference Champion, the Fighting Irish ruggers ruled the pitch with an impressive scrum, eliminating the towering and bruising Western Conference Championship team, the Brighton Storm, 15-0 in a hard-fought semi-final match; and

WHEREAS, Father Ryan completed another amazing season by capitalizing on their opportunities, controlling the ruck, and their stalwart and tenacious defensive play, helping them prevail over inter-conference rival Ravenwood in the state title game by a score of 15-0,

capturing the club's third state championship in four years, and finishing the season undefeated and unchallenged; and

WHEREAS, the championship game was highlighted by the outstanding performances of exceptional Fly Half Sam Hohl, who scored the first try in the game, the stealthy direction of Scrum Half Christopher "Cookie" Marshall; the dominating defensive wall lead by gutsy Eight-man Patrick Spray, Inside Center Ryan Spray, Prop Alex Eddy, and the field leadership and toughness of Hooker Wes Wesley; the illustrious exploits of Winger Tyler Kincaid, who scored two tries in the championship game with his lightning speed and bravado, earned him Most Valuable Player honors for the tournament; and

WHEREAS, the leadership, passion for the game, and coaching wizardry of legendary Head Coach Keith Burnett and assistant coaches Pat McRedmond, Marty Blair, Dave Parkerson, Don Thielke, Derek Wolfe, and Terry Faimon, are without peer; Coach Burnett's precepts of playing tenacious defense, controlling the scrum, holding the ruck, sharp passing, strong running and kicking, and limiting mistakes were perfectly on display during the Fighting Irish ruggers run for the championship; and

WHEREAS, the young men of the 2010 Father Ryan Fighting Irish Rugby Club have displayed ability, teamwork, and perseverance. Henry Alexander, Christopher Agnew, Nick Bateman, Stephen Curran, Sam Hohl, Tyler Kincaid, Christopher Marshall, Josh Murray, Stephen Nolan, Cory Norcross, Jason Ogaz, Michael Papuchis, Patrick Spray, Ryan Spray, Patrick Van Buren, Wes Wesley, Marshall Billingsley, Matt Bolton, Blake Faimon, Ian Kaszuba, Jake Neeley, Johnny Neligan, Corey Mankin, Philip Hagey, Paul Scaglione, Brian Cain, Will Stewart, Kyle Burnett, Justin Stockdale, Alex Eddie, Ryan Bowden, Brucker Nourse, Lawrence Mellion, Chris Holzmer, Kyle Wyttenbach, Kevin Zoladz, Ian Morrison, Brian Murphy, Richard Havrilla, Robert Kilbane, Casey Maher, and Ricky Fisher with the help of their coaches, parents, and supporters, have represented their community and the State of Tennessee in fine fashion, displaying peerless character both on and off the rugby pitch; and

WHEREAS, during this incredible championship season, the members of the 2010 Father Ryan Fighting Irish Rugby Club have etched their names onto the hearts of Tennesseans and into the annals of Tennessee sports history; their dedication, determination,

work ethic, and talent not only made possible a successful and memorable rugby season, but also surely point toward their successes in future endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Head Coach Keith Burnett and the Father Ryan Fighting Irish Rugby Club upon capturing the 2010 Tennessee High School Rugby State Championship Cup, applaud them for their heralded success on the rugby pitch, and wish them much success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.